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Poor boom lift maintenance costs \$230,000

Singapore's Jurong Shipyard was fined \$230,000 by the Ministry of Manpower (MOM) for failing to ensure that a boom lift was safe to use for working at height, following a fatal incident in October 2011. The company was working on a ship repair contract and had subcontracted Shipblast Marine to sandblast the vessel. Two Shipblast employees were working from the platform, when a boom section failed, dropping the men almost 30 metres to the bottom of the dry dock. They were declared dead at the scene.

During the investigation it was discovered that three months earlier, during a thorough inspection, corrosion was found on all four boom sections and around the platform support area. It was treated by blasting away the rust and painting over the affected areas. However the boom wall on one section had worn down from the original 6.00mm to just 2.86mm. The manufacturer's guidelines clearly state that a boom section with this amount of wear should be replaced. Jurong Shipyard did not refer to the manufacturer's inspection guidelines, referring instead to the American Bureau of Shipping rules for ships, and as a result had not replaced the section.

Turkish students model cranes

Turkish tower crane distributor TeknoVinç has sponsored a model crane building competition in Istanbul, aimed at inspiring the country's next generation of engineers.

The Wood Tower Crane Competition was organised by Yıldız Technical University and featured 13 teams of students, each tasked with designing and building a scale model of a tower crane using wood, which was then judged on its uniqueness and performance with a 10kg test weight. The three winning teams won a Potain MDT tower crane model from TeknoVinç, as well as books and prize money from the university.

TeknoVinç group director Sinan Türeyen said: "We pride ourselves on helping the Turkish crane sector recruit trained personnel, which is why cooperation with universities is so important. By sharing our experiences and knowledge, we are helping support the next generation of engineers."



The students with their model cranes

£120,000 fine after fall from platform

UK-based SPR Trailer Services has been fined £120,000, after part-time employee Douglas Skinner fell to his death from the scissor lift he was working from after it was struck by a passing truck in January 2015. Skinner was replacing signs at the company's entrance, and was only 1.5 metres above the ground, when the incident occurred. The investigation revealed that the company had failed to carry out a risk assessment for the work, failed to take basic measures to provide a safe work space, and had also failed to provide instructions or training for the work to be carried out.

HSE principal inspector Norman Macritchie said: "This was a tragic and wholly avoidable incident, caused by the failure of the company to implement and monitor safe systems of work. The company did not undertake the simple safety measure of segregating those working at height from workplace transport operations, in line with industry guidance."



The entrance to SPR Trailer Services



A-Plant apprenticeship success

UK rental company A-Plant has been named in the Top 100 Apprenticeship Employer list for the second year running at the National Apprenticeship Awards 2017. A-Plant currently has 166 apprentices and invests more than £2 million in the programme annually.

Fall from height costs printer £135,000

UK printing company IKO-Design has been fined £100,000 plus costs of £35,000 for an incident in which an employee died after falling through a skylight in 2014.

The man was working on a heater flue on the roof with another employee, when he fell. He died from his injuries six months later. The investigation found that the work was not appropriately planned, supervised or carried out in a safe manner.

Who trained him then?

Spotted at a recycling centre in London, UK, a man working at height from an excavator arm. Not only is he taking a chance by balancing on the grab/clamp attachment, but also has his hand on the linkage and its potential pinch points.

